



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Installation Restoration Program RAB Update: December 6, 2011

A meeting of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) Installation Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at Kittery Town Hall, Kittery, Maine. The agenda included presentations on the status of work at all Operable Units (OUs) and an update on Site 30 Removal Action construction activities.

The Navy completed construction activities as part of the removal action for Site 30.

Site 30 is the Former Galvanizing Plant, Building 184. It consists of a vault in the floor of Building 184 that was used to hold tanks associated with operations in the building. When use of the tank was discontinued, the vault was filled and covered with a concrete floor. By the early 1960s, the building was converted to a welding school, which was its use until the school was recently relocated. An investigation of a portion of the vault (sampling from a test pit cut in the vault) showed that the sampled fill material was contaminated.

A removal action was conducted to excavate the fill material in the Site 30 vault. Construction activities began in September 2011 and included removal of remaining equipment and the office and bathroom that was on top of the concrete floor covering the vault and removal of the concrete floor slab and vault fill material. The material excavated was fine- to coarse-grained sand and silt that had no noticeable signs of contamination (odors or staining). After excavation, the acid-proof brick lining of the vault was cleaned with push brooms and low-pressure water streams. No staining was evident on the bricks lining the vault, and no penetrations or visible pathways to the underlying concrete vault were found. Sampling of the excavated fill showed that it met beneficial reuse requirements (suitable for use as daily landfill cover). Concrete and brick samples had concentrations less than removal action levels. A construction completion report will be prepared to provide the results of the removal action activities.

Based on the excellent condition of the tank vault lining (i.e., bricks) and the nature of the fill material, the regulators and Navy decided to update the removal action requirements to eliminate removal of the acid-proof brick lining and underlying concrete; therefore, confirmatory sampling of soil behind the concrete was not conducted as originally planned.

Because Building 184 is considered a historical building, a historical recordation of the vault, including photographs taken in accordance with the National Historic Register Photo Policy Factsheet and Maine State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Guidelines, was conducted.

Next meeting announced.

The next regular meeting of the RAB will be held on:

Tuesday, March 6, 2012, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Kittery Town Hall, 200 Rogers Road, Kittery, Maine

Discussion topics will include presentations and updates on Installation Restoration Program activities at PNS. As usual, interested members of the public are welcome.

Questions?

To be added to the mailing list, please contact the Shipyard Public Affairs Office at the address or telephone number listed.

If you would like more information on this or other matters relating to the Installation Restoration Program at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, please contact:

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